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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EURE-00 /080 W
----------116466 191622Z /43
P R 191527Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2259
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 5555

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT PO
SUBJECT: AGRARIAN REFORM DEBATE BEGINS

REF: LISBON 5523 (DTG 190652Z JUL 77)

SUMMARY: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON AGRARIAN REFORM BEGAN JULY 18 WITH A SOCIALIST PARTY DEFENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE. THE COMMUNISTS AND PS DISSIDENT LOPES CARDOSO CONDEMNED THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROPOSAL. PRESIDENT EANES MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS SA CARNEIRO AND FREITAS DO AMARAL JULY 18 FOR LONG DISCUSSIONS ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST STANDS TAKEN: THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN REFORM BILL BEGAN JULY 18 WITH SPEECHES BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND PS AND PCP DEPUTIES:
-- BARRETO CALLS FOR LIBERATION OF THE ALENTEJO:
AGRICULTURE MINISTER BARRETO SAID HIS AGRARIAN REFORM PROPOSAL WOULD HELP LIBERATE THE ALENTEJO FROM THE FEUDAL DOMINATION IMPOSED BY THE COMMUNISTS.

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HE REJECTED THE CONCEPT OF STATE FARMS AND DEFINED
HIS GOALS AS INCREASED PRODUCTION, IMPROVED SOCIAL JUSTICE,
AND MORE RATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES.
-- PS BACKS BARRETO: SOCIALIST PARTY FLOOR LEADER
SALGADO ZENHA DISASSOCIATED THE PS FROM THE AGRARIAN
REFORM DISORDER OF THE PAST TWO YEARS AND CALLED FOR
SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL.
-- LOPES CARDOSO BREAKS RANKS: PS DISSIDENT AND FORMER
AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO, SPEAKING INDIVIDUALLY
AFTER THE PS DISAVOWED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS
REMARKS, CALLED THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROPOSAL UNCONSTITU-
TIONAL AND APPEALED FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO REJECT IT.
-- COMMUNISTS OPPOSE: PCP DEPUTY VITAL MOREIRA LABELED
THE PROPOSAL UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND FAVORABLE TO
CAPITALISM; HE CALLED FOR ASSEMBLY REJECTION.

2. EANES MEETS OPPOSITION: PRESIDENT EANES HELD LONG
MEETINGS JULY 18 WITH PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO AND
CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL. UPON LEAVING HIS
MEETING WITH EANES, SA CARNEIRO COMMENTED THAT THE
PSD FAVORS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT A STABLE
DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY. HE SAID THIS NEED NOT
REQUIRE A COALITION GOVERNMENT, OR EVEN CHANGESIN THE EXISTING
GOVERNMENT. SA CARNEIRO SAID THE FINAL PSD
POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON NOT-YET-CONCLUDED CONVERSATIONS
WITH THE PS. CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL UPON
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LEAVING THE PRESIDENCY SAID THE CDS WOULD ONLY DECIDE
ITS VOTE ON AGRARIAN REFORM WHEN THE DEBATE ENDED, AND
UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT MADE ESSENTIAL REVISIONS THE
CDS WOULD VOTE AGAINST. AMARAL CRITICIZED THE GOVERN-
MENT'S RELUCTANCE TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE OPPOSITION.
HE FAVORED AN OVERALL DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT
LEGISLATION TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT FOR PARLIAMENTARY
COOPERATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: AGRARIAN REFORM DEBATE BEGINS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO
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